

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, above line 1, please insert the following paragraph:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of GERMAN Application No. 103 00 283.9 filed on JANUARY 2, 2003. Applicant also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/EP2003/014906 filed on DECEMBER 24, 2003. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

On page 2, after the third paragraph, insert the following paragraph:

--A method of producing a rod-shaped blank which comprises at least two different materials and in which the first material forms a rod-shaped support for the second material is already known from JP-A-60 059 001 and the associated English-language translation of the Abstract. This known method is carried out by means of a press tool which has a second cylinder arranged within a first cylinder. The two cylinders have, at the outlet end, nozzles through which the extruded material is issued in the form of a common plastic mass flow.--

On the page 9, amend the first full paragraph, as follows

--This object is fulfilled by a method with the features indicated in claim ~~1~~ 22. Advantageous refinements and developments are indicated in the dependent claims ~~2 to 12~~ 24 to 32. Claims ~~13 to 20~~ 33 to 38 relate to a device for carrying out the method according to any one of claims ~~1 to 12~~ 23 to 32.